

## IN FARM AND GARDEN.

Observations and Opinions of General Interest.

### DEVICE FOR MENDING SHAFTS.

Important Points in Governing the Corn Crop—Drilling in the Seed—Rot and Shallow Cultivation.

Some ten years ago the editor of The Rural New Yorker began the advocacy of level, shallow culture for corn; drilling in the seed instead of planting in hills; cultivating both ways, and surface manuring or fertilizing. He raised at the rate of 142 bushels of shelled corn to the acre in that way, and has advocated the method ever since.

Others had practiced one or more of the features of this method previous to Mr. Carman's big yield, and now there are many advocates for his method entire. The Prairie Farmer recently attested to this preponderance of the testimony at the winter's meetings of the Illinois Farmers' Institutes and clubs in favor of shallow cultivation for corn, and gives the following explanation why: "This rank growing plant quickly fills the soil with a mass of roots. If the roots are continually broken, the inevitable result is that the plant is seriously weakened in the effort to replace these months of the plant. It is undoubtedly true, as a rule, that level cultivation is better than hilling."



CORN ROOTS WITH DEEP AND SHALLOW TILLAGE.

The principal objects in cultivation are to kill the weeds and to keep the soil in proper till as to its surface. The preparation of the soil for the ramification of the roots must necessarily precede planting. The extension of roots is not by forcing their way through the soil. The roots enter between the particles of soil, however fine. Then, as the roots thicken, there is side pressure, and this increases with the growth of the roots. Soil, to promote growth, must be firm enough to preserve capillarity. One object in cultivation is to keep the surface loose and friable. Thus the sun penetrates more easily, the rain and dew also are better held, and in times of drought the moisture of the sub-soil rises constantly is arrested at the point of surface cultivation is reached, and so the roots are enabled to conserve moisture that would otherwise be lost. The science of cultivation, therefore, is to keep the surface mellow above the point where the roots ramify, and roots will always be found extending up to this point. Two to three inches in depth is sufficient therefore for the summer cultivation, though when the crop is young and the root growth correspondingly small, cultivation may extend to four inches.

How quickly the roots fill the soil is shown in the cut of growing corn, as determined by Professor Hayes on the grounds of the Iowa Agricultural college. This shows on one side how deep running shovels cut the roots. On the other side are shallow running shovels which not only stir every portion of the soil, but also at the same time root out the weeds.

By shallow cultivation is meant as little interference with the roots as practicable while preserving a mellow surface. The surface of a corn field must thus be kept mellow whether the season be wet or dry.

### Applying Phosphates.

W. H. Bowker answers the query "Whether to apply phosphates underneath or on top of the seed corn" as follows: "If the corn is planted on phosphate alone, three-fourths of the fertilizer should be sown broadcast and harvested into the soil, and the balance strewn along the furrows. If it is a fertilizer possessing any strength at all it should not be dropped in the hill, either above or below the seed, as it is likely to injure the young tender roots as they shoot out to gather nourishment. The best way is to strew it along the furrow when used in connection with stable manure. Corn roots reach out in every direction, and before the corn plant is half grown the ground is nearly full of roots. Corn is a great surface feeder, and for that reason the fertilizer should not be plowed in deep, but applied near the surface."

### Early Harvest Blackberry.

Our cut gives an idea of the oval symmetrical form of the Early Harvest blackberry. As the name suggests, this is one of the earliest blackberries in cultivation. It is a compact dwarf grower and produces fruit of medium size and fine quality.



### EARLY HARVEST.

Vick claims that the Early Harvest is valuable not only because it is an early prolific sort, but that it carries well and presents a handsome appearance in market. The fact that it is a prolific bearer of early fruit that ships well is of special value to those who grow fruit for market.

### YOUNG TURKEYS.

Special Dangers to Be Guarded Against in Raising These Fowls.

Young turkeys are subject to two special dangers—(1) a peculiar susceptibility to wet and (in less degree) to cold, and (2) a great liability to diarrhea. For the first week, American Poultry Journal says, the young bird should have little

beyond hard boiled egg mixed up with dandelion leaves, or a little bread crumbs may be added. All through dandelion leaves make for the best green food, but if they cannot be had, chopped beed nettles or onions chopped fine are a next best. As they get older, they are fed on good barley meal or oatmeal, and may also have almost ad libitum fresh curd squeezed dry from the whey, but buttermilk is about as likely to cause trouble as anything can be.

The egg for a week is of very great importance, to prevent a slight tendency to diarrhea from the first which often sets in, and gets worse, and carries them off later on. While young turkeys require the utmost care when very young, and should be confined for awhile, let it be known that they will not thrive unless they have the benefit of a range as they become larger. They are active foragers, and must have a chance to exercise that peculiarity, but in so doing they will pick up the greater part of their food. Those who grow tobacco should always keep a flock of turkeys, as they are very destructive to the large green worms that do so much damage to that crop. If allowed a range and fed on grain at night, they can easily be taught to come up at regular hours.

### Kentucky Mules.

There are many intelligent mule breeders in Missouri, but the Kentucky stock has the general preference. Kentucky mules, upon an average, are worth \$10 per head more than the Missouri mules, from the fact that they are better bred. There is more thoroughbred blood diffused among the horsestock generally of Kentucky and Tennessee than in any other states of the Union, thus giving a better class of mules to breed from than can be found outside of these two states. On the other hand the blood of the Clyde and Percheron mixed with the coarse Canadian is the foundation of a large number of the broad naves in the northwest. They produce large, coarse, sluggish mules not to be compared to the somewhat smaller, but clean limbed, active, high spirited mules out of well bred Kentucky mares. No animal shows the effect of good breeding more readily or to a greater advantage than a mule. Farmer and Breeder.

### The Bean Crop.

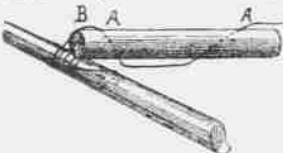
Beans grow best on a light, warm or sandy soil. For field culture the white marrow is a standard New York and eastern variety, large, oval in form and excelled in quality, and brings the highest price in the market. It develops a large amount of foliage and is inclined to throw out a good many running vines. The white navy, medium, or pea bean, is smaller, round oval in form and well adapted to thin soils; productive under good cultivation and a standard commercial sort. Beans are planted in rows about three feet apart, either in hills or drills, after all danger of frost is over, and should never be worked when wet with rain or dew. They should be harvested before frost.

### The Preservation of Meat.

The Journal of Agriculture is authority for the statement that it is customary in Upper Savoie (France), both on farms and in villages, to preserve meat in summer by placing it in large earthen pans or pots filled with curdled milk, or even with skimmed milk, which soon curdles, and storing the vessel in the cellar. In order to keep the meat beneath the surface of the milk, it is loaded with clean stones. Meat is preserved in this way for over a week, without the least change in its flavor. When it is needed for use, it is simply washed and dried. The milk is fed to swine.

### Device for Mending Shafts, Etc.

The very simple, but effective and convenient tool represented in the cut is, says Southern Cultivator, valuable for mending broken shafts or handles. It is especially designed for wrapping wire tightly in joining the broken pieces. The tool is a hickory stick or handle twelve



or fourteen inches long. At A A are slanting holes a little larger than the wire. There is a notch for guiding the wire at B. To keep the notch from wearing too deep, drive a nail just under it. The figure shows how the tool looks and how it is used.

### Things Told by Others.

Professor Goff says: Whole potatoes are the best to plant, as they give more gain in the crop than the extra amount of seed required. The strongest eyes are on the seed end. Never use sprouted seed. No particular difference where you put the fertilizer. Potash is the best fertilizer, and the best soil a gravel loam with clover sod.

Oats are one of the best egg producing foods known, says Southern Farmer. Oats would be more extensively used were it not for the rough hull. Now that a hullless oat can be raised the problem of cheap egg producing food has been solved. It should constitute three-fourths of the diet of the large breeds, whose inactivity causes them to take on more fat than is desirable.

A complete change of the soil in flower pots is sometimes necessary, and will enable a plant to secure more food and grow better.

Feather eating hens are best broken of this habit by plenty of exercise and a variety of food, including raw meat or other animal food.

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HENRY COHN,  
Secretary and Treasurer.  
Salt Lake City, May 2, 1889.

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